

*Remarks*

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-10 remain pending in this application, of which Claims 1, 3, 9 and 10 are independent.

By this Amendment, Claims 2, 5 and 11-20 have been canceled, and Claims 1, 3, 9 and 10 have been amended.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating Claims 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12 and 15-20 as containing allowable subject matter. Without conceding the propriety of the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action, Applicant has incorporated the allowable subject matter of Claim 2 into independent Claim 1, incorporated the allowable subject matter of Claim 5 into Claim 3, and rewritten Claims 9 and 10 into independent form. Therefore, Applicant submits that each of independent Claims 1, 3, 9 and 10 is now in allowable form. The remaining objections are addressed below.

The title of the invention was objected to as not descriptive. Applicant has amended the title to be more descriptive and requests withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 1-20 were objected to as reciting an image forming apparatus but not reciting an image forming means. Applicant submits that there is no requirement of such a recitation and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 10-240082A (*Kadani et al.*). As discussed above, by virtue of incorporation of allowable subject matter into independent Claims 1 and 3, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance and requests prompt passage to issuance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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